

Foot and Mouth Disease Alert

Livestock Producers, Allied Industries and Foreign Travelers and Visitors

THE UNITED STATES IS FREE FROM FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

Visitors from foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) affected countries may unknowingly introduce the virus into the United States. Special precautions should be taken to minimize the risk of transmitting this catastrophic livestock disease, which can infect all wild and domestic cloven-footed animals including cattle, sheep and pigs.

Meat and dairy products from affected countries may harbor the virus. In addition, people can carry the FMD virus on their clothing, shoes and other inanimate objects. To minimize the risk of introducing FMD, follow these recommendations:

- Foreign travelers should always declare on their Customs form if they have been on a farm or in contact with livestock and always declare the presence of any meat or dairy products in their possession.
- Producers should ask foreign visitors to provide information about recent farm and animal contacts.
- If possible, farm owners exclude foreign visitors from livestock facilities for at least five (5) days after arrival in the U.S.
- Do not permit clothing, shoes or other articles (such as luggage, cameras, jewelry, and watches) that have been in FMD-affected countries to enter livestock facilities.
- Keep clean protective clothing and footwear available. Require visitors to wear these items and thoroughly wash their hands prior to entering a livestock facility.
- Do not allow meat or animal products from FMD-infected countries to enter your facilities.
- Discourage close contact or handling of animals by foreign visitors.
- If traveling to an affected foreign country, carefully wash and disinfect all clothing and shoes upon return to the U.S.



Animal Health and Food Safety Services

For additional information contact the Animal Health Branch at:

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